

II. Amendments to the Drawings

Figure 3 has been amended to include replace one of the occurrences of reference numeral 56 with reference numeral 52. Furthermore, Figure 3 has been amended to extend the reference line of one of the occurrences of reference numeral 52 in order to indicate the primary edge 52 formed in the inner surface 32 and defining the groove 54.

An annotated marked-up copy of Sheet 1, showing the above-discussed amendments, and a Replacement Sheet are included in this amendment.

III. Remarks

Applicants thank the Examiner for the Case Interview conducted via phone on June 8, 2004.

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 15 as discussed with the Examiner; and have cancelled claim 35. Accordingly, after entering this amendment, claims 1-7, 9-17, 19-21, and 34 are pending.

With the claims amended and the remarks provided below, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and a withdrawal of all rejections.

Drawings

Figure 3 has been amended to replace one of the occurrences of reference numeral 56 to the reference numeral 52. Paragraph [0019] of the original Application as filed recites that the primary edge 52 is formed along the length of inner surface 32 and that the primary edge 52 forms a groove 54. Paragraph [0020] of the original Application as filed recites that the secondary edge 56 radially extends on the end face 50, and original Figure 3 in the Application as filed shows another occurrence of the reference numeral 56 properly pointing to the secondary edge 56 extending around the end face 50. Therefore, the amended reference numeral should be 52 rather than 56 and no new matter is added.

Furthermore, Figure 3 has been amended to extend the reference line of one of the occurrences of reference numeral 52 to the primary edge 52 formed along the length of inner surface 32. As discussed above, Paragraph [0019] discloses the primary edge 52 as being formed along the length of inner surface 32 and as forming a groove 54. Therefore, the amended reference line should extend to the primary edge 52 forming the groove 54 and no new matter is added.

Claim Objections

Responsive to the claim objection, claim 15 has been amended to delete the word "so" in accordance with the Examiner's instructions in the Office Action.

Claim Rejections – 37 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Responsive to the rejections of claim 1-7, 9-17, 19-21, and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), *Johnston* fails to teach each and every element of a device as claimed in the present application.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the inner surface is *continuous with* an end face and that the *inner surface and the end face are generally perpendicular with each other*, as indicated to be allowable by the Examiner in the Case Interview. Figures 4, 5, 7, and 8 in the original application as filed disclose that the end face 50 and the inner surface 32 are substantially perpendicular. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either explicitly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. *Johnston* does not disclose an inner surface being continuous with a perpendicular end face. The inner surface 24 in *Johnston* is not continuous with the end face (the face perpendicular to the inner surface 24 and located near the arrow of element 18 in Figure 2 of *Johnston*). Rather, the inner surface 24 and the end face in *Johnston* are separated by a chamfered portion 22. (*Johnston*, col. 2, lines 15-16, Figure 2). Furthermore, the chamfered portion 22 and the inner surface are not substantially perpendicular with each other. Accordingly, claim 1 is not anticipated by *Johnston*.

Claims 2-7 and 9-14 depend on amended claim 1. Thus, claims 1-7 and 9-14 are allowable for the reasons provided above.

Claim 15 has likewise been amended to recite that the inner surface is *continuous with* an end face, and that the *inner surface and the end face are generally perpendicular with each other*. *Johnston* does not disclose an inner surface being continuous with an end face such that the respective surfaces are

perpendicular to each other. The inner surface 24 in *Johnston* is not continuous with the end face (the face perpendicular to the inner surface 24 and located near the arrow of element 18 in Figure 2 of *Johnston*). Rather, the inner surface 24 and the end face in *Johnston* are separated by a chamfered portion 22. (*Johnston*, col. 2, lines 15-16, Figure 2). Furthermore, the chamfered portion 22 is not perpendicular to the inner surface. Accordingly, claim 15 is not anticipated by *Johnston*.

Claims 16, 17, 19-21, and 34 depend on amended claim 15. Thus, claims 15-17, 19-21, and 34 are allowable for the reasons provided above.

With respect to claim 35, claim 35 has been cancelled, and thus no further discussion of this claim is necessary.

Conclusion

Thus, Claims 1-7, 9-17, 19-21, and 34 should be allowed and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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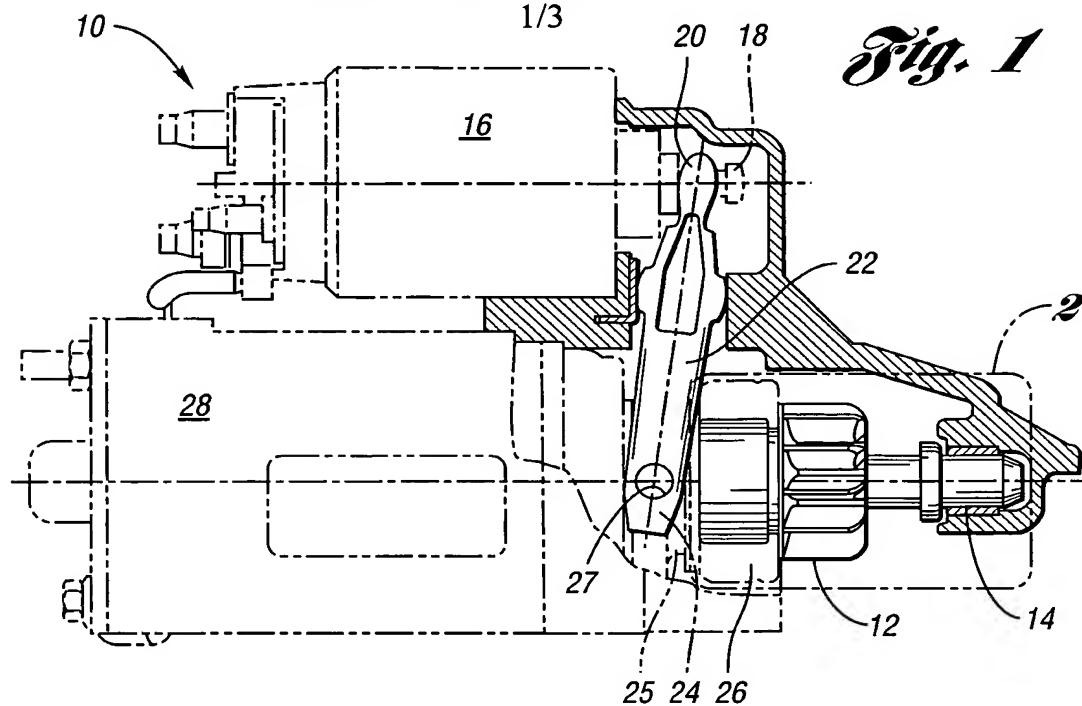


Fig. 1

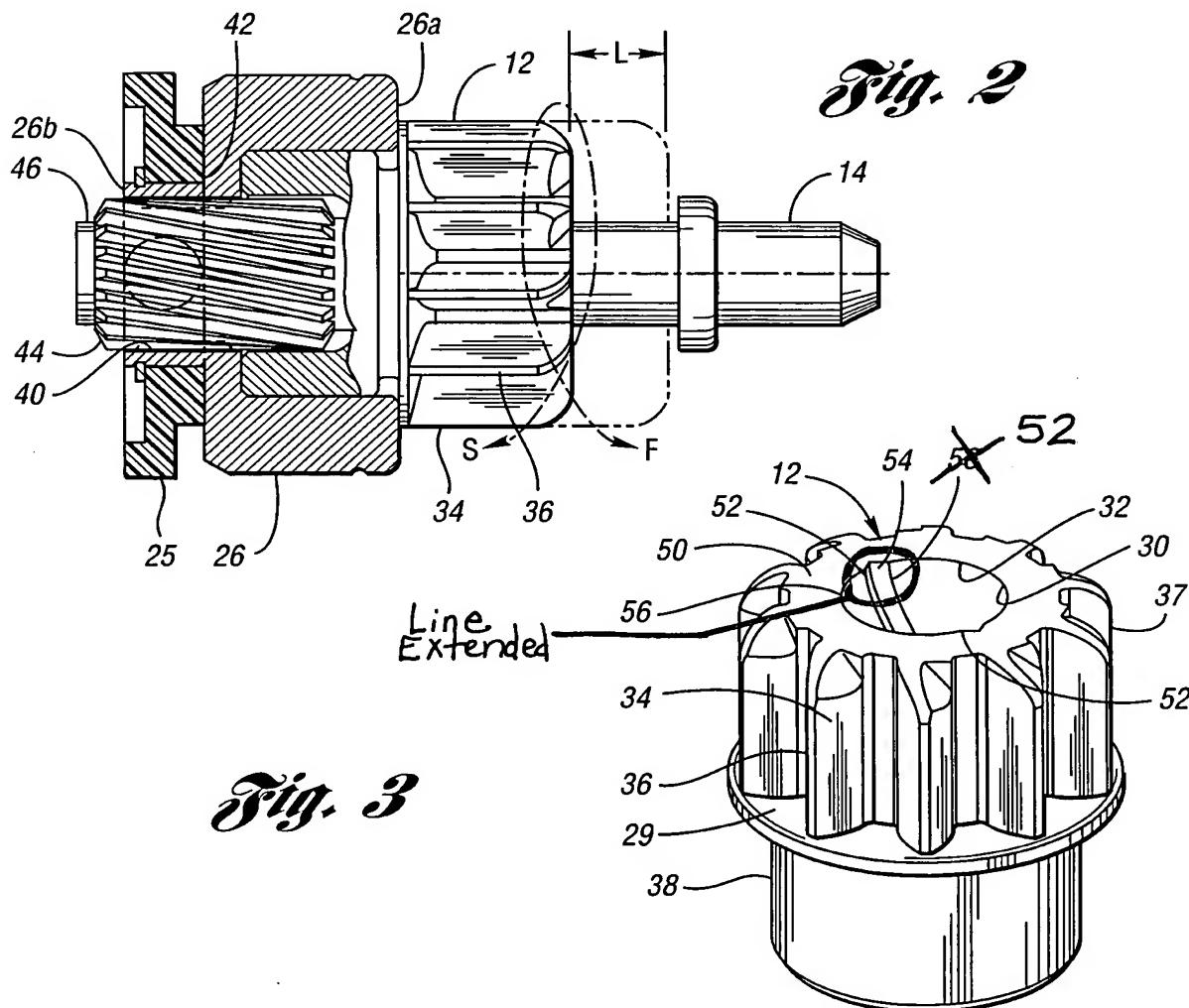


Fig. 3

